

## ER Site No. 142: Bldg 9970 Septic System

ADS: 1295

Operable Unit: Septic Tanks and Drainfields

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### Site History

ER Site 142 includes the septic system and two drywells serving Bldg. 9970. Bldg. 9970 is located west of Lovelace Road, approximately 1.6 km (1.0 mi) east of the Solar Power Tower. It was constructed in 1963 and used to test aircraft radar. Small quantities of organic compounds and cleaning agents, which include toluene and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), were reportedly used but not discharged to the septic system.

Bldg. 9970 is served by a 3,040 L (800 gal) septic tank and a 5-ft-diameter by 10-ft-deep seepage pit, both located east of the northeast corner of the building. A toilet, sink, and floor drains in the northeast section of the building appear to have discharged to the septic system. Two floor drains located in a trench system in the inflatable-building part of the facility discharged to two drywells located along the southeast wall of the building, each 4 ft by 4 ft deep. The trench system was installed to allow routing instrumentation cabling below the level of the floor during acoustic tests.

The floor drains were designed to drain any liquids (from fire suppression or building leaks, for example) that flowed into the trench system. No hazardous material is known to have been discharged to the floor drains. The septic system and dry wells are inactive. Any effluent generated from the northeast part of the building is now discharged to an extension of the sanitary sewer system. Bldg. 9970 is currently an inactive facility.

The site is approximately 30 meters (98 feet) above the regional water table.

### Constituents of Concern

Septic tank sampling in 1991 detected phenolic compounds, low concentrations of heavy metals and low concentrations of organic compounds in the sludge in the septic tank. No other constituents of concern are identified for the site.

## Current Hazards

No known surface or subsurface hazards have been identified, based on environmental soil and soil-gas sampling that has been conducted at the site.

## Current Status of Work

The septic tank was sampled for waste characterization in 1992 and the spring of 1994.

A passive soil gas survey in the summer of 1994 did not detect any organic compounds.

Soil sampling was performed around the seepage pit and septic tank in the fall of 1994. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed that no soil sampling was necessary around the two drywells because there was no evidence or indication that hazardous constituents were discharged to them.

Waste was removed from the septic tank, and the empty tank was inspected by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in late 1995. The tank was decontaminated, and concrete samples were collected from the tank to verify that no COCs remain. The tank was then backfilled with clean soil.

A confirmatory sampling No Further Action (NFA) proposal for this site was submitted to the NMED/HRMB in September 1995, and NFA comments were received from NMED/HRMB in April 1997. SNL replied to the NMED comments in June 1997. NMED issued a second Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in February 2000, and SNL/NM responded to this second RSI in April 2000. On April 18, 2000 NMED found Site 142 to be acceptable for a NFA petition. The NFA was officially approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

## Future Work Planned

No future work is planned.

## Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

Around 14 drums of mixed waste were generated at this site.

**Information for ER Site 142 was last updated Aug 15, 2001.**